

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-4039

Magi No. 0440395611

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Safe Deposit & Trust Company

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9-13 South Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

3rd

state Maryland

county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Harlan Company, Inc.

street & number 150 East 58th Street

telephone no.: (212) 980-9400

city, town New York

state and zip code New York 10155

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber SEB 475

street & number 100 N. Calvert St., Courthouse West, Rm. 610

folio 2

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4039

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company is a five bay wide, one story high, pressed brick and Cheat River bluestone bank building with a slightly recessed one bay wide four level addition to the south of the front facade. The exterior of the building features a French Romanesque design that is dominated by a central entranceway with pairs of fluted Corinthian columns supporting an elaborate entablature. Large arched windows punctuate the building walls between wide pilasters. The building is decorated with polished Ionic columns between the windows at street level, elaborate wrought iron bars, brackets with a scroll and scallop design, and recessed brickwork. A hipped roof caps this richly decorated structure. The interior of the building is a single large space with a mezzanine level in the rear and four floors of office space in the southern addition. Within this immense space are original wood office partitions featuring fluted Ionic columns and broken pediments, the original bank vault and marble arches. The center of the cove ceiling was originally lit by an immense stained glass skylight.

(continue, please)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4039

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1876, 1903, 1909, 1930 **Builder/Architect** E.F. Baldwin, Baldwin & Pennington,

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D Lawrence Hall Fowler

and/or Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary:

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building is architecturally significant for both its outstanding exterior design and its dramatic large interior banking space. It is associated with some of Baltimore's finest architects: E. Francis Baldwin, Josias Pennington and Lawrence Hall Fowler. It is the oldest building in the Financial District area that survived the Baltimore Fire. It is one of the most intact buildings that survived the fire. It also has the largest banking space in the Financial District excluding high-rise buildings. The building is associated with an important financial institution, the Safe Deposit and Trust Company. This was the oldest trust company in Maryland and one of the oldest in the United States. This company handled the estates for many prominent Baltimore citizens. The original building designed by E. Francis Baldwin in 1876 was only three bays wide. It was expanded to the north in 1903. The addition by Baldwin and Pennington maintained much of the character of the original building, but added the new elaborate entrance-way. The original building did not extend back to Commerce Street until it was expanded in 1909. The rear elevation was designed to be compatible with the front facade. The 1929 southern addition by Lawrence Hall Fowler reflected the original design but had flatter and less ornate decoration. The attractive walls of the parking lot to the south including wrought iron lanterns and heavy iron gate were designed by James R. Edmunds in 1946.

(continue, please)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4039

American Architect & Building News, January 15, 1876Baltimore Sun, May 10, 1902.Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Company; A Birthday Retrospective, Suzanne Wolff.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .413Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

A Lot 121'x149' located at 9-13 South Street, known as Block 1348, lot 4/5.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred B. Shoken, Historic Preservation Analystorganization Comm. for Hist. & Arch. Pres. (CHAP) date July 1985street & number Rm. 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard St. telephone (301) 396-4866city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Safe Deposit and Trust Co. (B-4039)
Baltimore (City), Maryland

Description Continued Page 1
General Description:

The front facade of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is dominated by the large arched entrance flanked by massive Corinthian columns. The decorative bronze door entrance, behind a set of glass doors, is set into an ornamental stone surround featuring a bracketed entablature with a carthouche displaying the address. Above the entrance is a large multi-pane window set into an arch. The arch is decorated with a high relief molding of foliage. The engaged double Corinthian columns that flank the entrance rest on stone pedestals featuring identification plaques. The columns, which are fluted on the upper three-quarters of the shaft, support an elaborate cornice with decorative brackets. Above the cornice is a large entablature featuring date stones and an identification sign. It states, "1864 Safe Deposit & Trust Co. 1903."

On either side of the entrance are two large arches recessed between brick pilasters. Above a stone water table, the five foot thick brick building walls are graduated, with each brick course slightly recessed as the wall recedes to the base of the pilasters. Above a simple base the pilasters feature incised brick decoration and a refined capital decorated with bezants. The pilasters support Romanesque brick arches inlaid with stone decoration. Within the recessed arches are four double windows at the street level, each pair separated by a smooth granite squat column and protected by heavy iron bars. Above these windows are stone band courses and incised brick decorations. The mezzanine level double pairs of windows are four over four. They are separated by narrow engaged columns and are surmounted by a semi-circular window. The front facade is capped by an intricate cornice which features Victorian style brackets and acroterion at the edges of the facade. Above the cornice is a hipped roof.

The one bay wide southern addition of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company is slightly recessed to the main five bay wide building. The addition compliments the main building. It features a similar recessed arch, brick pilasters and a stone cornice, however the decoration is restrained and in low relief. A date stone with Roman numerals displays, "MCMXXIX." South of the addition is a parking lot protected by wrought iron lanterns and a heavy iron gate. The side facade which borders the parking lot does not feature any significant decoration.

The rear of the building is similar to the front, however there is no entrance on this elevation and the central arch is not as articulate. The central arch features three windows at the first floor level protected by heavy, curving iron bars. The upper window is also protected by bars and is flanked by two large engaged columns with Byzantine capitals.

The interior of the building features an immense banking space that is approximately ninety feet wide, one hundred forty feet deep and fifty feet high. A marble arcade cuts through the space in front of the large steel and iron vault. Above the arcade is a mezzanine level in the rear. Original wood office partitions with fluted Ionic columns and broken pediments are located along the northern wall. Additional office space is located below the mezzanine level. Two original fire places with marble mantles are located within these offices. An iron railing with Victorian details surrounds the open banking space at the mezzanine level. The windows feature decorative woodwork and carthouches within the arches. A cove ceiling with woodwork along the edges originally surrounded a huge skylight. The present ceiling is covered with accoustical tile. To the

Safe Deposit and Trust Co. (B-4039)
Baltimore (City), Maryland

Description Continued Page 2

south of the main banking space are four stories of office space housed in the addition.

Safe Deposit and Trust Co. (B-4039)
Baltimore (City), Maryland

Significance Continued Page 1
History and Support:

The Safe Deposit Company was chartered on March 10, 1864. The main purpose of the company was to provide a secure repository for valuables. Many important Baltimoreans founded the company. Enoch Pratt was the first president of the company. Pratt had acquired a large fortune through his shipping, railroad, insurance and banking interests. He is best known for two philanthropic ventures: the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Sheppard and Pratt Hospital. William T. Walters, a pioneer in railroad development, was also a founder. His son, Henry, would become a chairman of the board.

The company was originally housed in rented space in the National Farmers and Planters Bank. By 1875, the financial institution grew to such a degree that a new headquarters was needed and construction began on this building. E. Francis Baldwin, one of Baltimore's most prominent architects was hired to design the new fire-proof home of this company. Baldwin had worked for John R. Niernsee and was briefly a partner with Bruce Price. He would later team up with Josias Pennington to design some of Baltimore's most important buildings, including: Mount Royal Station, Fidelity Building, Maryland Club, and old City College. The Safe Deposit and Trust Company was one of his earliest major commissions.

The building that he designed was featured in the American Architect and Building News of January 15, 1876. It was a three bay wide, one story high free-standing structure with Victorian detailing. When it was built it was considered one of the finest structures of its kind in the country. Foremost in importance was its burgular proof vaults and fire proof construction, since the building was designed for the safe keeping of valuables.

In 1876, when this new building opened, the charter of the Safe Deposit Company was ammended to give it fiduciary powers. This was the first corporate fiduciary in Maryland and one of the first in the nation. The idea of a corporate trustee was slow to catch on, but the Safe Deposit and Trust Company would later act as the executor for important estates. These estates included: the famous impressionist art collection of the Cone Sisters left to the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Walters estate which established the Walters Art Gallery; Thomas O'Neil's estate which funded Good Samaritan Hospital and the building of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen; and a blind trust for President Eisenhower during his two terms of office.

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company grew constantly in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1903, a larger building was needed. Once again E. Francis Baldwin, now in partnership with Josias Pennington prepared the plans for enlarging the building. Much of the Victorian detailing was retained when the forty-eight foot addition to the north was built, however architectural trends were changing. Classical design was popular at the turn of the century, and the enlarged building featured a central doorway with immense Corinthian columns in the French Romanesque style. The building still had an open interior, which now measured ninety by ninety-five feet. A second vault was added and the still existing, wood partition offices placed along the north wall. The building remained free standing and fire-proof.

When the Baltimore Fire swept through the heart of the Financial District on Febraury 7 and 8, 1904, 1545 buildings were destroyed. The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building not only survived the fire, but it was virtually unscathed. The building had been severely tested, but carried out its prime

Safe Deposit and Trust Co. (B-4039)
Baltimore (City), Maryland

Significance Continued Page 2

function to safely protect the valuables of clients of the company. It is one of only eleven buildings that survived the fire and are still standing today. Since part of the building dates from 1876, it is the oldest building which survived the fire.

Originally the building did not extend as far back as its present form, because other buildings fronted on Commerce Street. These were destroyed by the fire, giving the Safe Deposit and Trust Company the opportunity to span the entire block. In 1909, a rear addition was made to the building. The new southern wall was designed to be compatible to the front. The large banking space was increased by approximately forty feet. This space remains the largest banking space in the Financial District, excluding high rise bank buildings.

Additional office space was needed twenty years later. In 1929, Lawrence Hall Fowler designed the southern addition to the building. Fowler is best known for the War Memorial Building and Hall of Records Building in Annapolis. This addition complimented the original structure. At the same time the mezzanine was enlarged to cover the rear of the building and the marble arcade constructed in front of the vaults. The last major change to the building was the addition of the parking lot, decorative wall and iron gate, designed by James R. Edmunds in 1946.

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building is one of the most architecturally significant structures in the Financial District. It represents the work of some of Baltimore's finest architects. It features architectural elements from several different eras representing both Classical, as well as, Victorian design. It is significant that all of its additions and enlargements added new architectural features and more space to the building without significantly detracting from the excellent qualities of previous design.

On October 19, 1953, the Safe Deposit and Trust Company merged with the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company, located at 200 East Redwood Street, to form the Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Each of these buildings remained in use until the new Mercantile Building was constructed at Charles Center in 1969. The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building was purchased by the Boston Metals Company. In the early 1970s, the owner of this company considered tearing down the building for a surface parking lot. The Department of Social Services, however, was looking for space in this area, and has occupied the building until the present day. The building was recently purchased and the new owner is proposing to demolish the building in order to erect a twenty-eight story high office tower and re-erect the front and rear facades in an interior atrium space.



B-4039

Safe Deposit and Trust Co.
9-13 South Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Caroline Hardy
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation



B-4039

Safe Deposit and Trust Co.
9-13 South Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Caroline Hardy
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
East elevation



B-4039

Safe Deposit and Trust Co.
9-13 South Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Caroline Hardy
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Detail of window

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0440395611

Address: 9-13 South Street

Current Name: Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Block: 1348 Lot: 4/5

Lot size: 121 x 149

Height: 1 to 4

Materials: Brick

Condition: Good

Owner: Harlan FCR Associates

Use: Offices

Accessible: Yes

Designation: None

Liber/Folio: SEB 475-2



Historic Name: Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Date: 1876, 1903, 1909 & 1930

Architect/Builder: E. Francis Baldwin, Baldwin & Pennington, Lawrence Hall Fowler

Style (if appropriate): French Romanesque

Description:

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building is a five bay wide, one story high, pressed brick and Cheat river bluestone bank building with a slightly recessed one bay wide four level addition to the south of the front facade. The exterior of the building features a French Romanesque design that is dominated by a central entranceway with pairs of fluted Corinthian columns supporting an elaborate entablature. Large arched windows punctuate the building walls between wide pilasters. The building is decorated by polished Ionic columns between the windows at street level, elaborate wrought iron bars, brackets with a scroll and scallop design, and recessed brickwork. A hipped roof caps this richly decorated structure. The interior of the building is a single large space with a mezzanine level in the rear and four floors of office space in the southern addition. Within this immense space are original wood office partitions featuring fluted Ionic columns and broken pediments, the original bank vault and marble arches. The center of the cove ceiling was originally lit by a magnificent stained glass sky light. It has been covered over and it is not known whether the stained glass has survived.

Significance:

Area: Architecture/Commerce

Level: Local

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building is architecturally significant for both its outstanding exterior design and its dramatic large interior banking space. It is associated with some of Baltimore's finest architects: E. Francis Baldwin, Josias Pennington and Lawrence Hall Fowler. It is the oldest building in the Financial District area that survived the Baltimore Fire. It is the most intact building that survived the fire. It also has the largest banking space in the Financial District excluding high-rise buildings. The building is associated with an important financial institution, the Safe Deposit and Trust Company. This was the oldest trust company in Maryland and the second oldest in the United States. It played a leading role in financing railroad and steamship lines. The original building designed by E. Francis Baldwin in 1876 was only three bays wide. It was expanded to the north in 1903. The addition by Baldwin and Pennington maintained much of the character of the original building, but added the new elaborate entranceway. The original building did not extend back to Commerce Street until it was expanded in 1909. The rear was designed to be compatible with the front facade. The 1929 southern addition by Lawrence Hall Fowler reflected the original design but had flatter and less ornate decoration. The attractive walls of the parking lot to the south including wrought iron lanterns and heavy iron gate were designed by James R. Edmunds in 1946.

Sources: AABN 1/15/1876; BS 5/10/02 p. 12 c. 3-5.

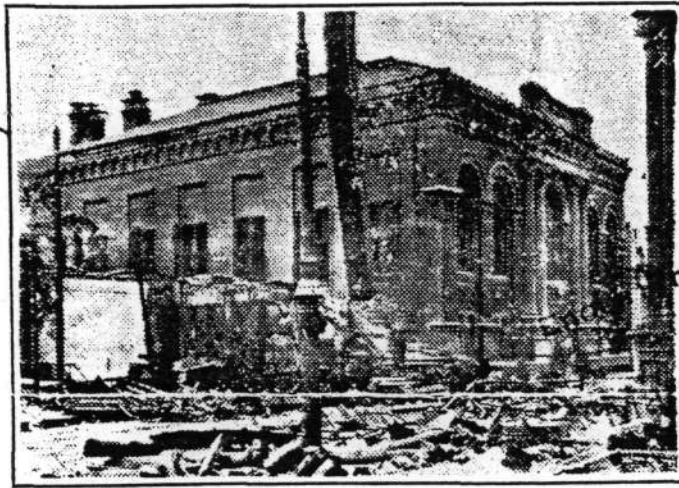
Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, March 1985.

DO NOT CIRCULATE

B-4039

From The Morning Sun, February 8th, 1935

The Oldest Trust Company in Maryland has Nothing to Sell but Service



"Serene in Midst of Ruin"

IT was Sunday, Feb. 7, 1904--just 31 years ago and a day! The great Baltimore Fire raged, and most of Baltimore's business section was a roaring seething mass.

In the afternoon, officers of Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore came to the office—took in records and valuable papers of firms and corporations and put them in the vaults for safekeeping.

By midnight the Sun Iron Building—which stood next door—caught fire and burned like a tinder box; then the building of this Company was obscured by smoke and flame.

Your securities and valuable papers in a safe in the modern vault of this Company will receive the highest possible degree of protection, just as your estate in trust with this company will receive the highest possible degree of good management.

Next morning, however, its building stood out from the wreckage—practically unharmed! It was the only building in the fire's path which was ready for business then. Rather than being a miraculous escape, this was due to faultless construction. The wisdom of the engineers was especially shown in limiting it to a one story building.

A news article of Feb. 9, 1904 stated "The perfect condition of this building and all its contents is a great lesson of what can be done by magnificent solidity of construction and careful attention to details."

Safe Deposit and Trust Co.

—OF BALTIMORE—

13 SOUTH STREET

Nearly 60 Years' Successful Management of Estates Exclusively

Baltimore Free Library
Maryland Vertical
File

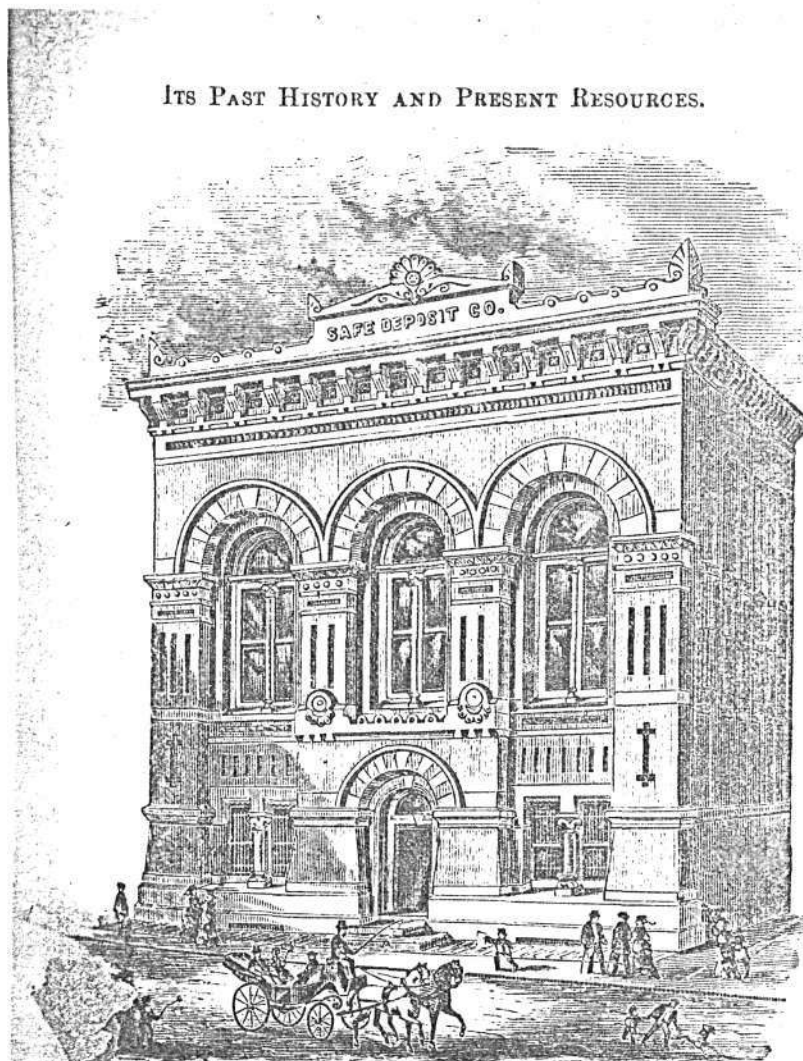
B-4039

Safe Deposit and Trust Company
9-13 South Street

Monumental City, p. 451
Original Building

ITS PAST HISTORY AND PRESENT RESOURCES.

451



**THE SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY
OF BALTIMORE,**

Chartered by the Legislature of Maryland,

FOR THE
SAFE KEEPING OF VALUABLES,
AND THE

Renting of Safes in their Burglar Proof Vaults, in the New and Elegant Fire Proof Building, erected by the Company on **SOUTH STREET, BALTIMORE,** with Special Authority to act as Executors, Administrators, Guardian and Trustee of Estates or of Individuals.

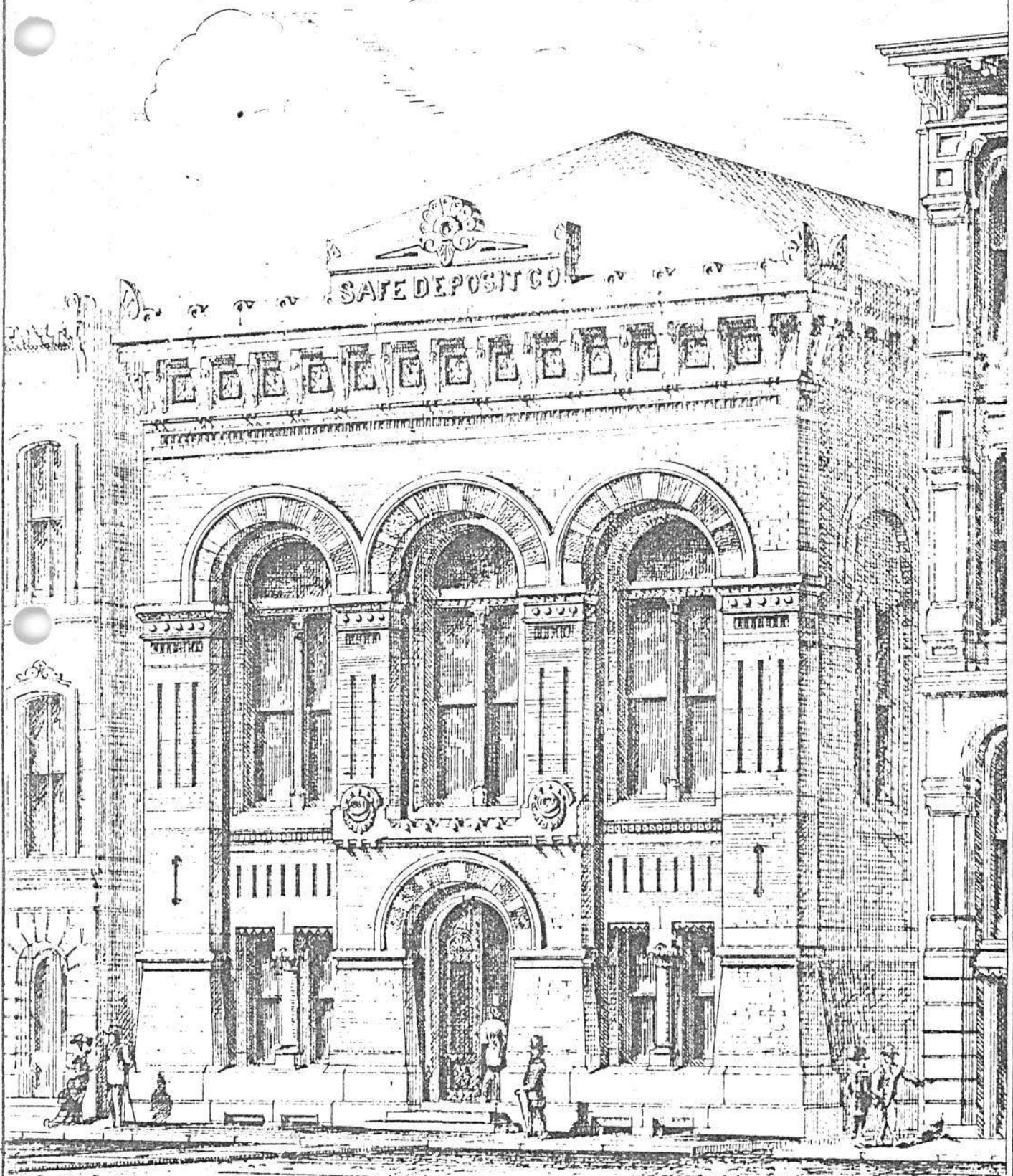
The great advantages to be derived from having a Corporation for TRUSTEE, especially of Estates, are so numerous and so apparent, that it is not necessary to enlarge upon them here, as all parties interested will upon application at the office of the Company, have the matter fully explained.

DIRECTORS.

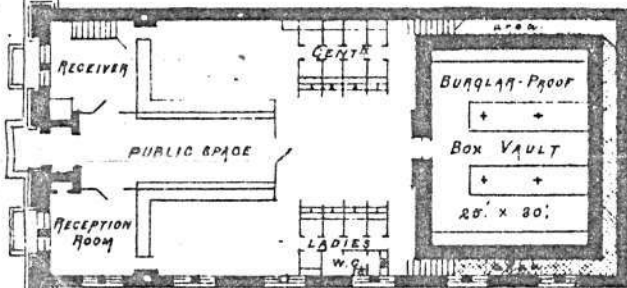
R. F. NEWCOMER, **ROBERT LEHR,** **S. M. SHOEMAKER,** **H. S. SHRYOCK,**
F. T. KING, **W. T. WALTERS,** **R. T. BALDWIN.**

R. F. NEWCOMER, Pres't, **ROBERT LEHR, V. Pres't,** **W. A. WISONG, Sec'y and Treas'r.**
See page 265.

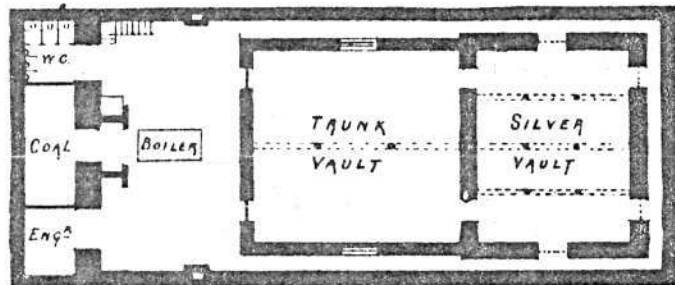
BUILDING FOR THE SAFE DEPOSIT CO. BALTO.



F. B. ROWIN,
ARCHT.



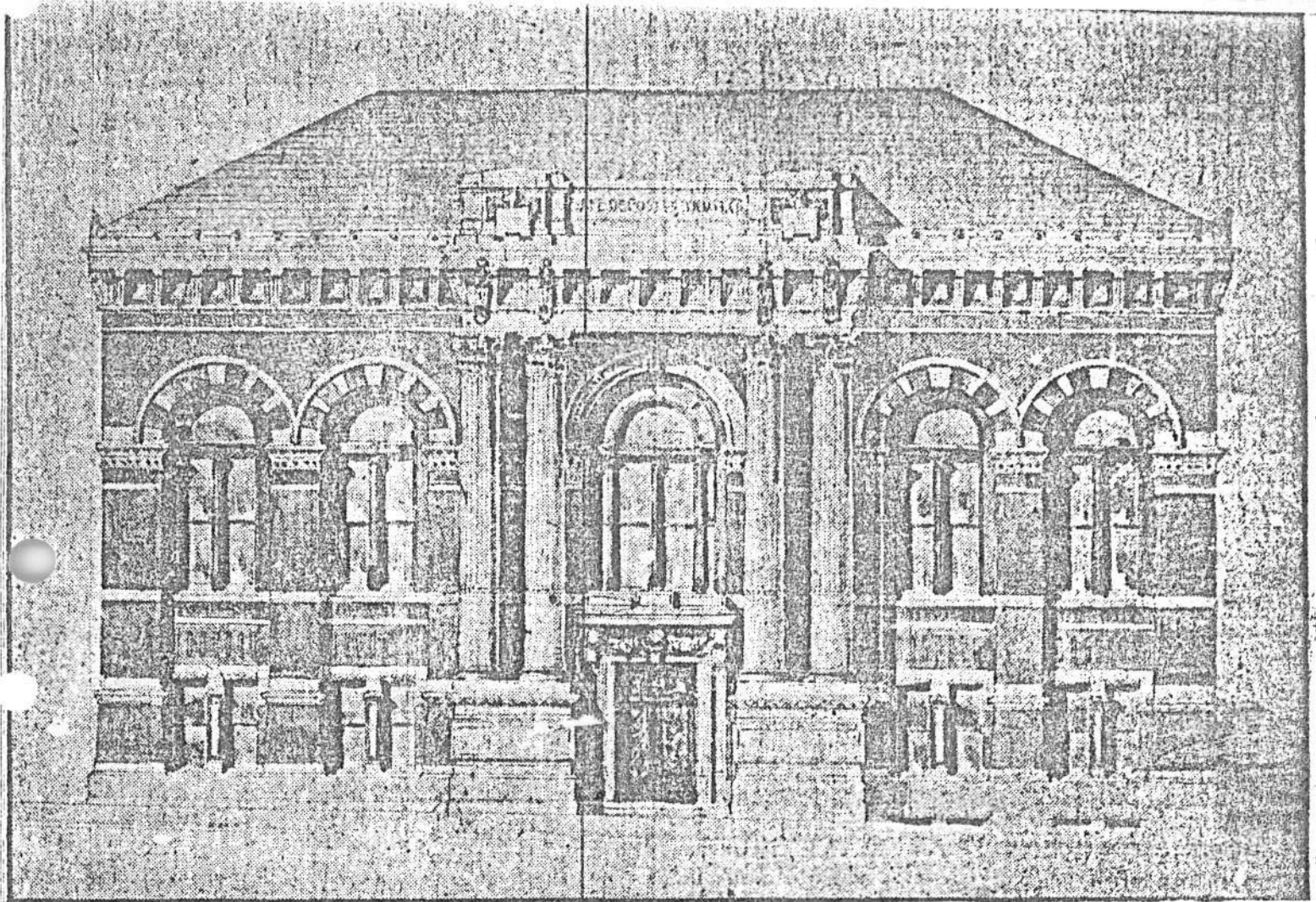
PRINCIPAL FLOOR.



BASEMENT.

Safe Deposit and Trust Company
9-13 South Street

Baltimore Sun, May 10, 1902, p. 12, c. 3-5



NEW BUILDING OF THE SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY

The building committee of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company, 13 South street, has decided upon the plans for the enlargement of its building. The above cut is a picture of the building as it will appear when the addition is completed. Messrs. Baldwin & Pennington are the architects and will prepare plans as soon as possible, so that the work of construction can be started.

The addition will be built on the lots adjoining on the north, where the Garrett bank building and the Hambleton & Co. banking house now stand. The two properties were recently purchased by the company.

The present building is 48 feet deep. The addition will be 48 feet, making the entire width 95 feet, with a

depth of 100 feet. The addition will be in harmony with the older edifice as to exterior. The doorway will be removed and a new and larger one erected in the center. It will be flanked by double columns, extending the full height to the main cornice. They will be three-fourth columns attached to the wall and set upon pedestals the height of the present basement or floor of the first story.

The present modification of the French Romanesque style will be carried out, the material being brick and Cheat river bluestone. There will be one room 90 by 95 feet, with all conveniences and well-protected skylight in the center of the ceiling. The counter will extend across the front, and there will be alcoves on each side. The apartments of the president and other offi-

cials will be arranged along the north wall, leaving the entire south side for the use of depositors. The clerks and other employees will be located in the center. The present vault will remain just as it is, but an additional safe will be built in the rear of the room and it will be used only by the company. The galleries recently put in will extend around the sides and rear of the enlarged building, just as they are now. The building will stand separate from any other, will have light windows on all sides and will cost over \$100,000.

The company recently increased its capital stock from \$500,000 to \$600,000, par value \$100 a share. Present shareholders have been given the privilege of subscribing to the new issue at the ratio of one share of new stock for every five now held

at the price of \$400. The sale of the stock will net the company \$400,000. Some of this money will be used to make the improvements.

The officers and directors of the company are: Michael Jenkins, president; H. Walters, vice president; John W. Marshall, second vice president; Francis M. Darby, treasurer; George R. Tudor, cashier; John J. Neilligan, secretary; Andrew P. Spamer, assistant secretary; George B. Gamble, assistant treasurer.

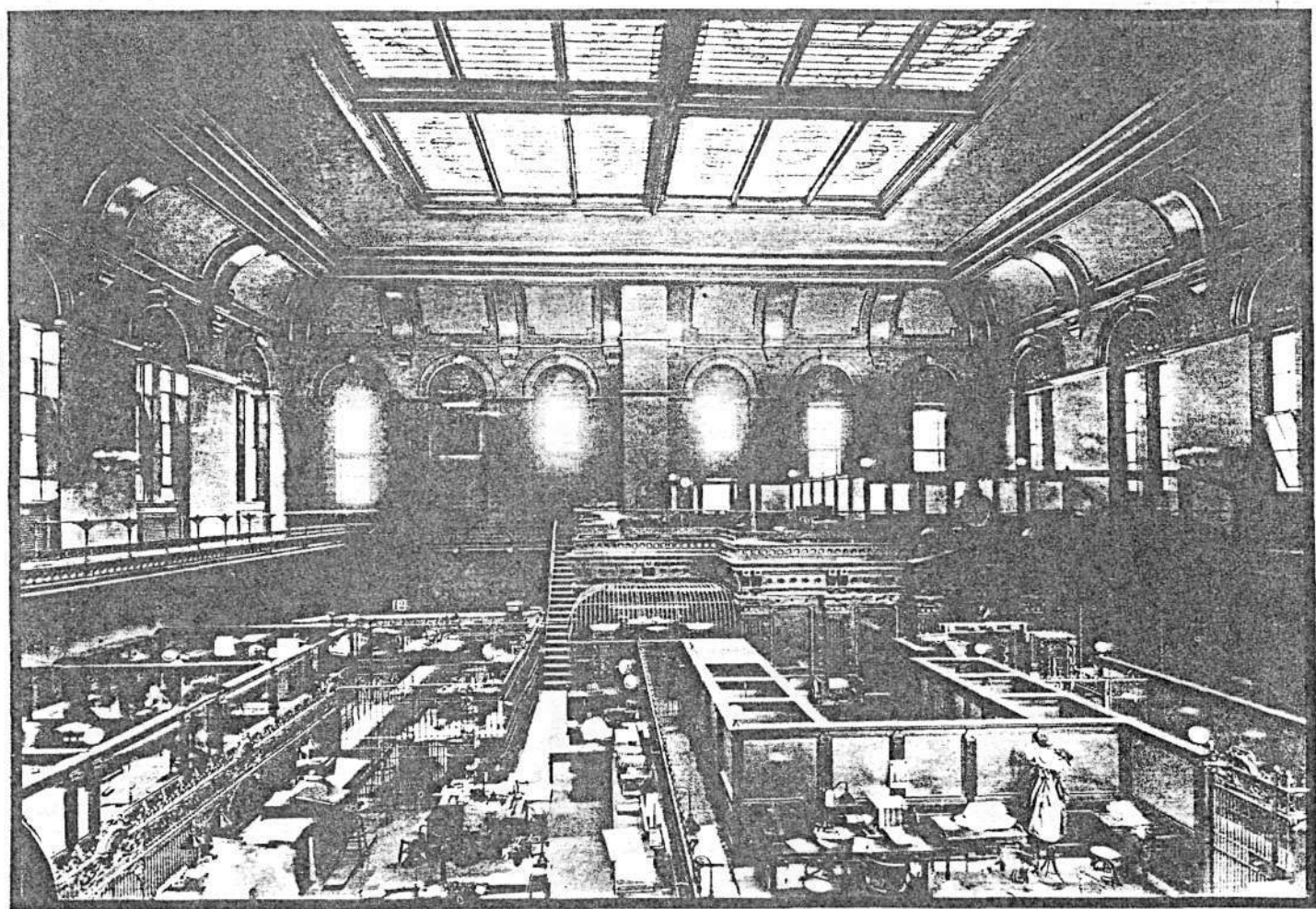
The directors are: Michael Jenkins, Edwin F. Abell, H. Walters, Francis White, Waldo Newcomer, Blanchard Randall, John B. Ramsay.

The company was incorporated in 1894, began business in 1867 and organized its trust feature in 1876.

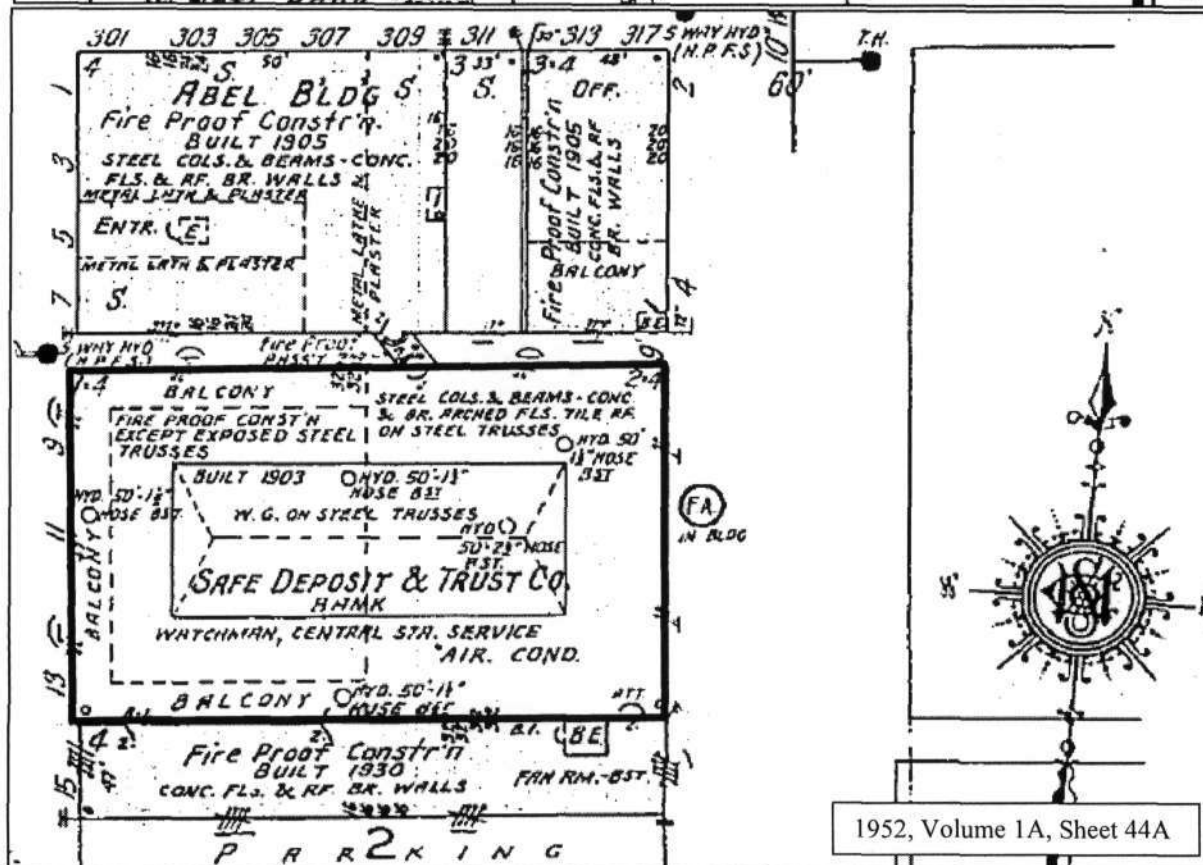
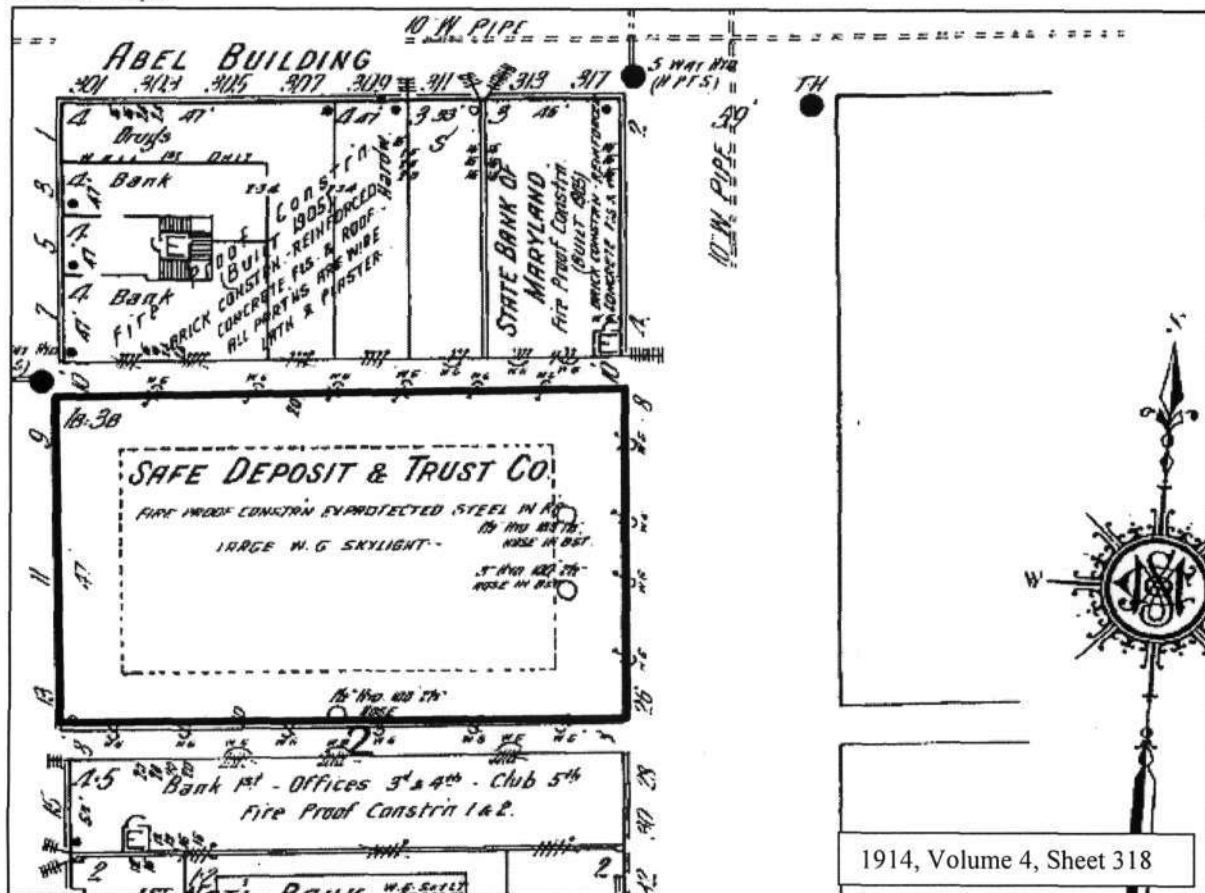
B-4639.

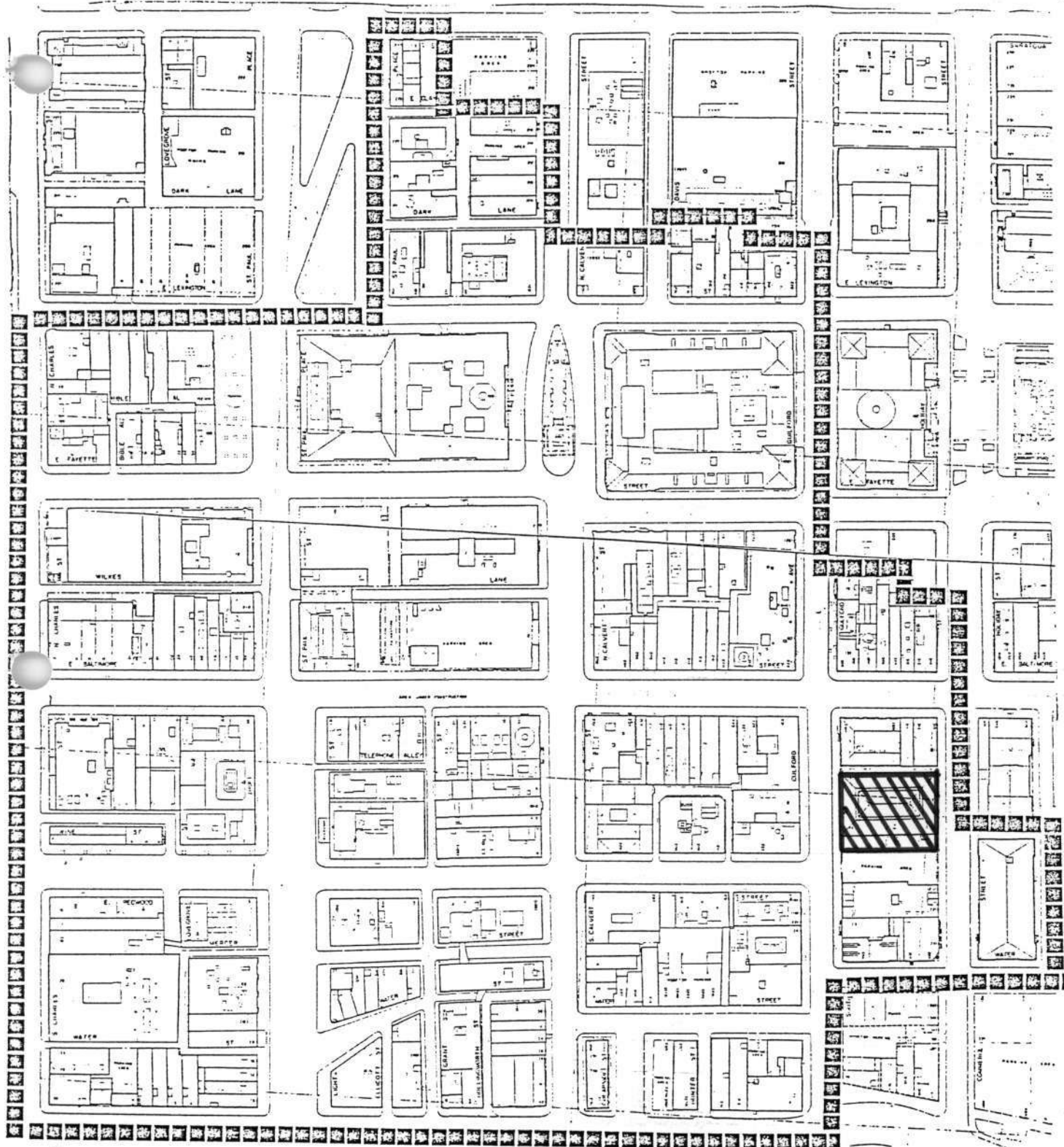
Safe Deposit and Trust Company
9-13 South Street

Maryland Banking Quarterly, Fall 1978



B-4039
 Safe Deposit and Trust Company
 9-13 South Street
 Sanborn Maps





Baltimore Financial District Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland



B-4039 Safe Deposit and Trust Company
9-13 South Street

Survey No. B-4039

Magi No. _____

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Safe Deposit and Trust Company

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 11 South Street

_____ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

_____ vicinity of

congressional district threestate Maryland

county _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>X</u> district	<u>public</u>	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	unoccupied	<u>commercial</u>
structure	both	work in progress	<u>educational</u>
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>
object	in process	yes: restricted	<u>X</u> government
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	<u>industrial</u>
	not applicable	no	<u>military</u>
			<u>other:</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Boston Metals Companystreet & number 313 East Baltimore Streettelephone no.: 539-1900city, town Baltimorestate and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

liber _____

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610folio 162city, town Baltimorestate Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

date (beginning) _____

_____ federal _____ state _____ county X localdepository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town _____

state _____

7. Description

Survey No. B-4639

Condition
☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The former Safe Deposit and Trust Company is a rectangular, one story, 95 by 100 square feet, ornate, Baltimore pressed brick, and Cheat river bluestone structure located in the commercial district of Baltimore. The building, which is located on South Street, survived the Baltimore fire of 1904, and today, it is surrounded by other business institutions and "The Block." The exterior features five romanesque arches, and four corinthian columns in a French Romanesque Revival style. The structure, which is now occupied by the Department of Social Services, and the Bureau of Support Enforcement, is in excellent condition, maintaining its original features before the fire of 1904 and the addition built in 1929.

General Description

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company is situated at 11 South Street with an adjacent parking lot with entrances on both South Street and Commerce Street. The building is a 1903 French Romanesque style structure designed by E. F. Baldwin.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4039

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1864/1903 Builder/Architect E.F. Baldwin / Laurence H. Fowler

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company is a unique architectural building in Baltimore City due to E. F. Baldwin's artistic use of ornate and decorative elements. The building is located in the commercial district of Baltimore, 11 South Street, and was launched in 1867 as the second trust company in the United States. Through its functions as a trust company, it has contributed to the commerce and commercial development on a local, state, and national level. The building is unique architecturally due to its French Romanesque style, and that it was one of the few survivors of the Baltimore fire in 1904.

History and Support

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore was incorporated in 1864 as the Safe Deposit Company and commenced business in 1867. The Trust Company is the oldest in Maryland and the second in the United States.¹

By 1876, the company widened its interests to include more functions as a trust company. The company is noted for its interest in the financing of the railroad and steamship lines which, in turn, have contributed greatly to the commercial development of the South.²

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4639

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acreQuadrangle name Baltimore EastQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

West sided by South Street. East sided by Commerce Street.

South sided by parking lot. North sided by an alley 9 feet wide.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Weilbacker, Studentorganization Goucher College date April 29, 1984street & number Dulaney Valley Road telephone 583-0722city or town Towson state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

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The Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Description page two

The front facade consists of a doorway and arch above that is flanked by double corinthian columns which extend to the main cornice. The columns are three-fourths in the round and attached to the wall and set upon pedestals the height of the first story windows.

The four small window, ionic columns are of polished Quincy granite and each separates a pair of windows with wrought iron bars.

The main windows are topped with romanesque, brick arches inlaid with Cheat river blue stone, except the center arch which consists of a high relief molding of foliage. Tiles laid in black mortar were used below the main windows and in the cornice while Cheat river stone was used in the cornice and window facings. The cornice consists of twenty eight brackets with a scroll and scallop design.

The addition, which was built in 1929 by Laurence Hall Fowler, features one arch above a main window, and a pair of smaller windows in the same style as the main structure. However, the cornice of the addition does not consist of brackets but of an alternating pattern of circles and column tiles.

(continued)

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The Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City) Maryland

Description page three

The rear facade extends to Commerce Street with the same design as the front; yet, it is less ornate. The main arch consists of two corinthian columns that extend to the height of the window. All of the main and small windows consist of wrought iron bars, and the pressed brick arches are inlaid with Cheat river stone.

On the North side of the building, there is an alley eight feet wide, and the five pairs of windows are heavily protected with thick wrought iron bars.

The South side of the building contains a total of twelve pairs of windows with wrought iron bars and a parking lot which was constructed in 1946 by James R. Edmunds. The decorative effects consist of two wrought iron lanterns with frosted glass, which are mounted on top both sides of the brick entrances, and in the center is a heavy gate of hand wrought iron.

The interior consists of one floor and one room 90 by 95 feet and a height of 60 feet. The original steel and iron vault, woodwork of the offices, and marble arch construction is still retained and unaltered within the interior.

(continued)

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The Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City) Maryland

Description page four

The building is a perfectly symmetrical, high-victorian construction, and fine example of French Romanesque revival maintaining all its original features and never experiencing alterations before or after the fire.

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The Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City) Maryland

Significance page two

1867

The construction of the building in 1867 was different from what it is today. The building had a frontage of 47 feet on South Street with a depth of 101 feet, and the front facade consisted of three arches and a small one over the entrance. In 1903, Messrs. Baldwin and Pennington were the architects that prepared the plans for the new structure. The addition was built on the north, adjoining lot which initially was the Garrett Bank building and the Hambleton & Co. banking house. The front, which was 47 feet, was enlarged another 48 feet, making the entire width 95 feet and a depth of 100 feet. The doorway was removed and replaced with a larger and more ornate one in the center. Four corinthian columns extending to the cornice were added which maintained the French Romanesque style of the original building.³

With the five bay structure designed by E. F. Baldwin of Baldwin and Pennington and the addition of the south bay by Laurence Hall Fowler, the building becomes a unique, decorative structure by two of the most prominent architects in Baltimore. In Half-Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore, it discusses Baldwin and Pennington as "practical architects of talent, skill, and originality, while the elaboration of detail and care bestowed on every department of their work reflect the utmost credit on the firm's business-

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The Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City) Maryland

Significance page three

like and efficient methods."⁴ For example, the ornateness of the four grandiose columns, which dominate the front facade, represent Baldwin's decorative elements. The details illustrate a unique and skillful display of architecture. The Hotel Rennert, Hopkins Place Savings Bank, B & O Railroad Central Building, along with the Safe Deposit and Trust Company by Baldwin and Pennington are just a few of the structures stated in Industries of Baltimore as the "most artistic structures in this city."⁵

As for Laurence Hall Fowler, he too has become a well known architect from his accomplishments such as the War Memorial Building and Plaza, the Hall of Records in Annapolis, and about 80 houses on the East Coast. His architecture is characterized by subtle refinement and elegant proportions.⁶

The Safe Deposit and Trust Company was constructed to be fire proof and this was proved in 1904. The Baltimore fire of 1904 destroyed the entire commercial district in the city except for eleven buildings. The Safe Deposit and Trust Company, being one of the survivors, escaped the blaze completely unharmed due to its solid cement concrete foundation and walls and was ready to conduct business the next day. Therefore, the building is one of the few existing structures that represents a particular architectural style before 1904 while, also, maintaining its integrity due to its excellent and unaltered state.

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Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Footnotes

¹American Architect and Building News, January 15, 1876, p. 22.

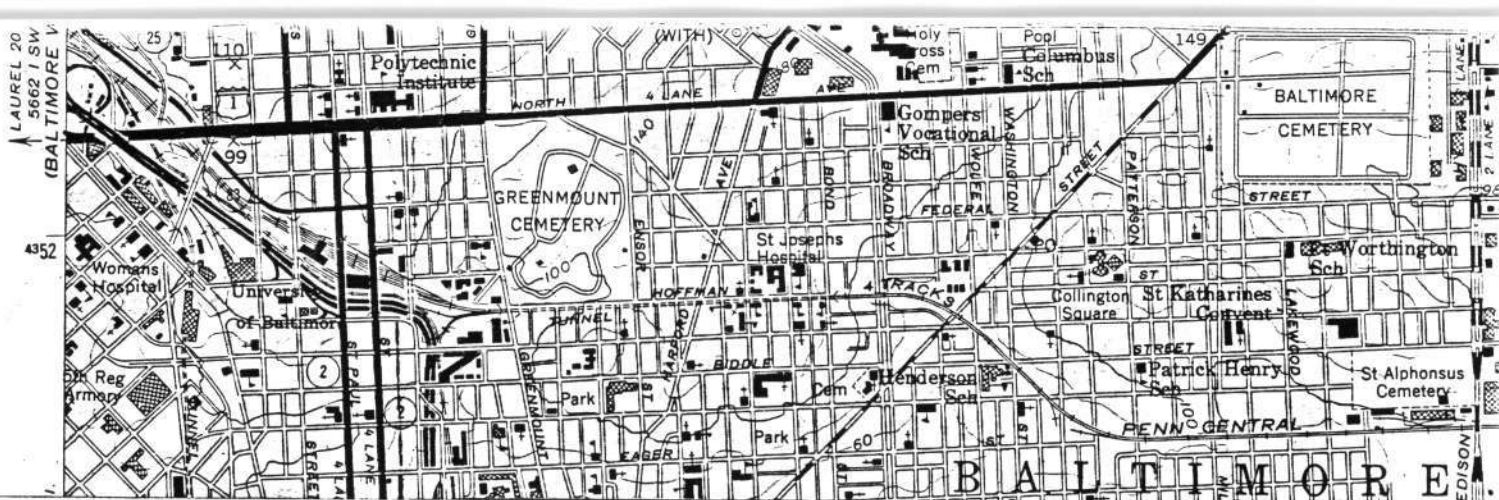
²Financial Interests of Baltimore, R. S. Mooney, 1913.

³Baltimore Sun, May 10, 1902, p. 12.

⁴Half-Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore, New York: 1886
p. 83..

⁵Industries of Baltimore, 1882, p. 339.

⁶Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Henry F. Withey,
California: 1956.



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Safe Deposit and Trust Company
Baltimore City
USGS Map Baltimore East Quadrangle
UTM References: 18. 361080 . 434990



B-4039

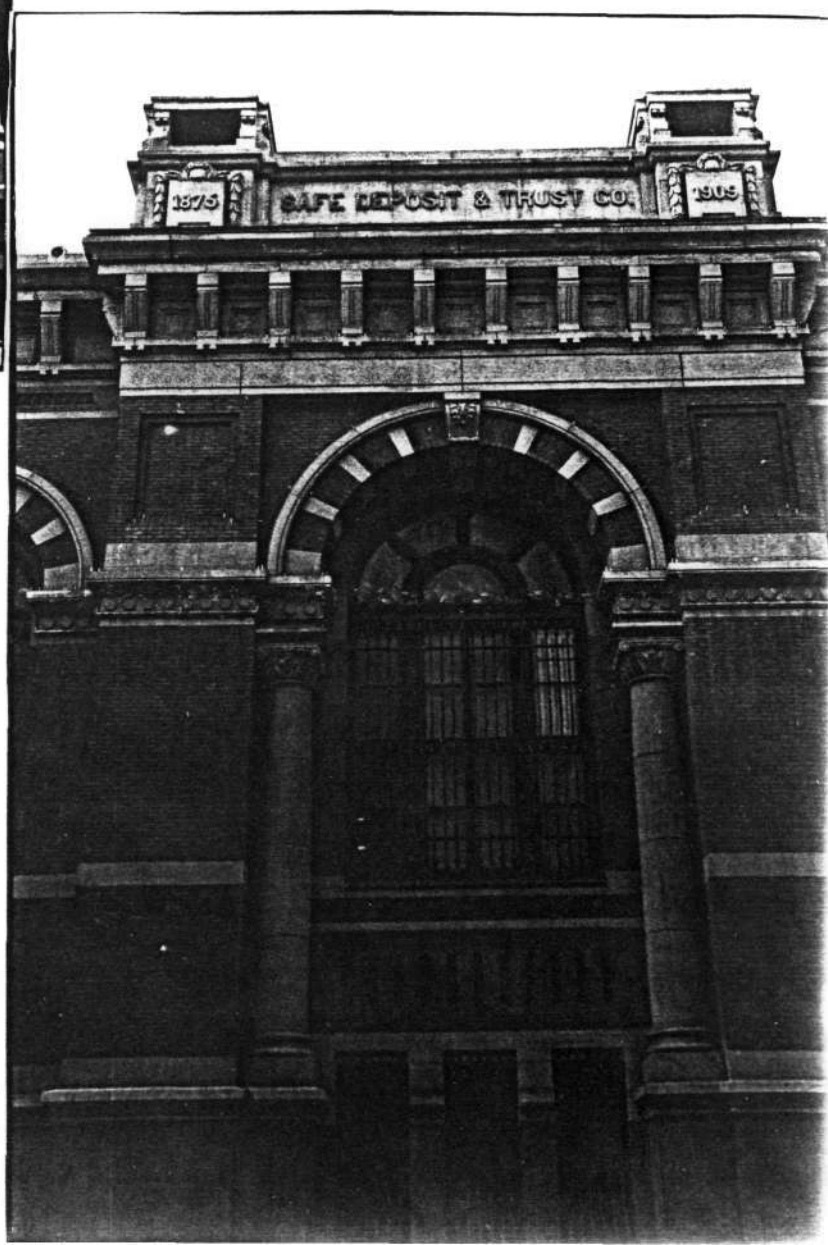


- 1.) Front facade on South Street and view of the South side of the structure.



2.) Detail of front doorway and center arch.

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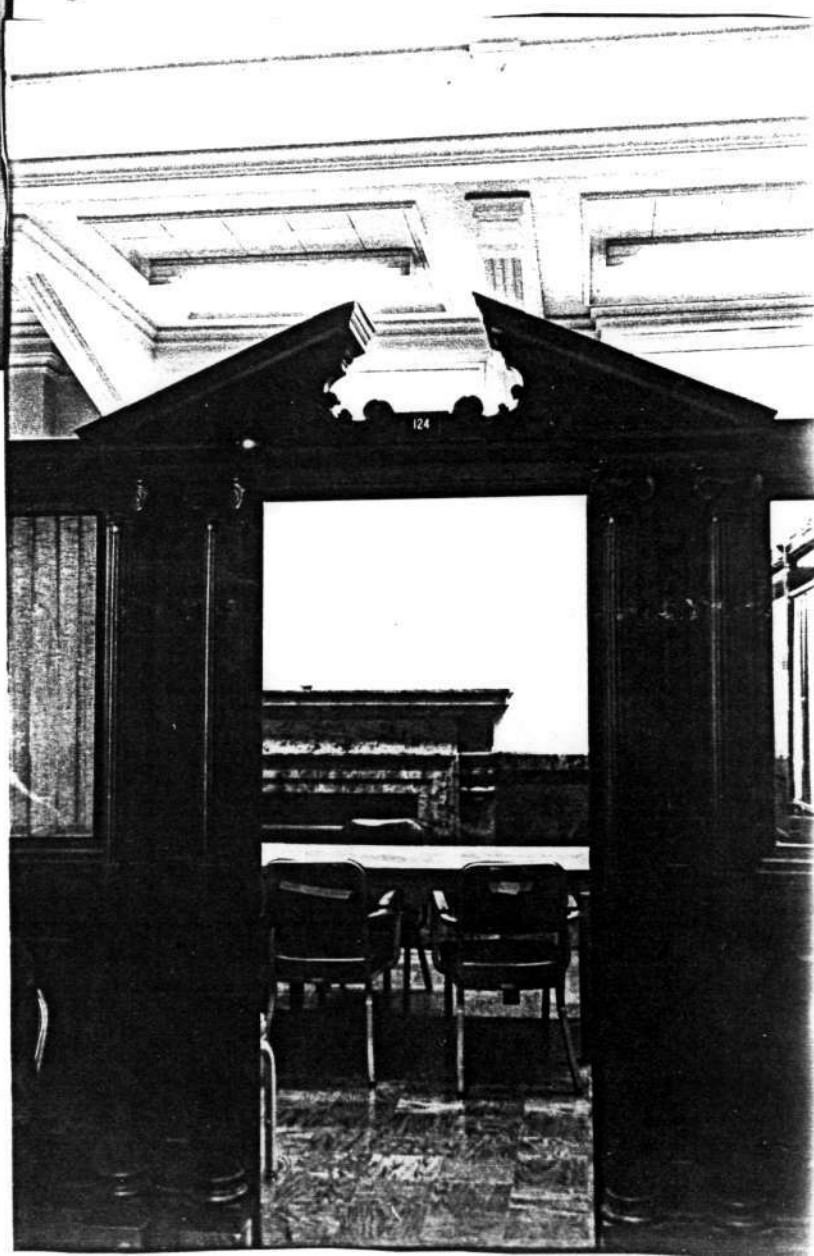


3.) detail of rear center arch



4.) Interior - north side of original offices and detail of marble romanesque arch

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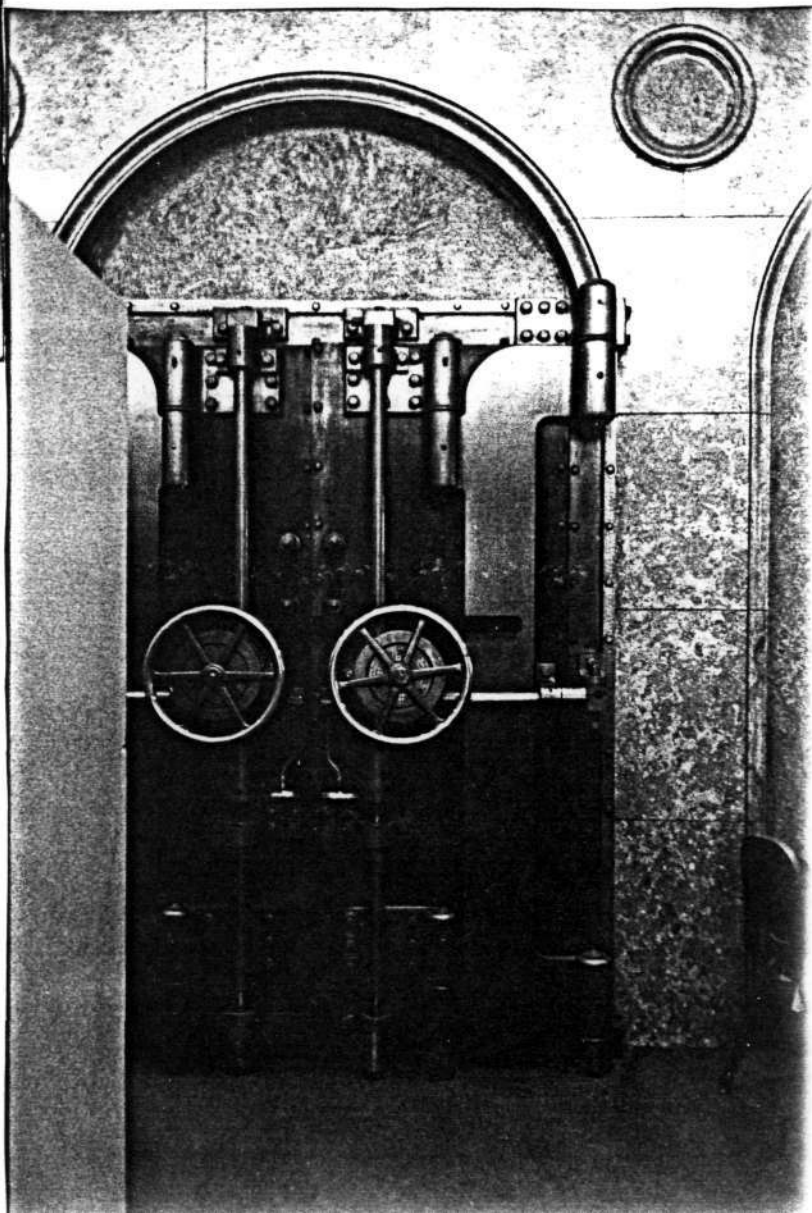


5.) Detail of woodwork of one of the offices one the north side.



6.) Exterior - detail of small column

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7.) Interior - detail of original vault